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**Tips that increase engagement in reading**

Reading is a fundamental of learning and is an important skill that needs to be developed in children. It is a vital skill for children to master, and an important source of knowledge and pleasure that can last a lifetime. How can a teacher make reading a fun thing to hook kids (grade 2-3) on reading and increase engagement is an important task too. Here are some of suggestions:

The first one is to read-aloud to them as a class for elementary school students. Reading aloud to them will help them grow familiar with sounds and vocabulary. Another type of reading is readers’ theaters where everyone has a part to involve in reading. They can also act out the characters in the stories. Using picture books is an excellent way to catch young reader’s attention to engage in read-aloud. I suggest using smart board to project the whole content of the picture books to engage them. This routine of reading aloud can develop a wider range of interest and enhance students’ pleasure in all kinds of children’s literature. After reading, it would be a good idea to ask simple questions about the characters, settings, themes and the moral of the books to make relevant connections to daily lives.

The second one is to promote supported independent reading (SIR). Readers use five finger rules to choose the appropriately challenging books. Teachers should stock up wide range of high quality of picture books in elementary classroom library to expose students to a variety of children’s literature including cultures, adventures, travels and fiction that are appealing. Thus, students have motivation to choose their favorites to read during SIR. After SIR, use group discussion to engage them. Readers can share a specific part of the book that they want to discuss in groups. They might as well exchange thoughts on other books read by group members. They can also record their responses in their reading logs in which teachers can assess their enjoyment and interest in reading. Another way to share to class their favorite books is to make book trailers. For students who have difficulty focusing, they can listen to an audio book during SIR time or they can access computer reading software to listen to the stories. The classroom needs to have a comfortable and inviting corner to promote supported independent reading. Besides sharing what they read in group discussion and to the whole class, they might as well share their book by making art projects, illustrating their favorite part in booklets, posters or power point. If time allowed, teachers can make this art projects as a contest which can increase greater effort and engagement of children.

I believe the suggestions mentioned above can increase engagement and make reading a fun thing for children (elementary school) to do.